

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23-28 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 15, 17, and 19-22 as follows:

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A device for melting or refining of glasses or glass ceramics comprising:

a plurality of pipes[, said plurality of pipes] forming a U-shape and lying next to one another so that said plurality of pipes form a cage-type skull channel having an open [toward a] top, said plurality of pipes being able to be connected to a cooling medium, said cage-type skull channel for channeling a melt of the glasses or glass ceramics in a substantially horizontal flow direction; and

a high-frequency oscillation circuit having an induction coil, said induction coil being [wrapped around] disposed about a portion of said cage-type skull channel such that [winding segments extend along side walls of said channel] said open top is free of said induction coil.

Claim 16. (Previously added) The device according to claim 15, wherein said U shape has ends, and wherein the ends of the U-shape are joined together in a conducting manner for purposes of forming a short-circuit bridge.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 15, wherein said cage-type skull channel is thermally insulated in an upper space of a furnace.

Claim 18. (Previously added) The device according to claim 15, further comprising an additional heating unit in an upper furnace space.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein the additional heating unit is configured and arranged to act directly on a surface of [a] said melt.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 18, further comprising a ceramic plate that is heated by said additional heating unit and gives off heat to a surface of [a] said melt between said additional heating device and the surface of said melt.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 15, further comprising a plurality of flat coils connected one behind the other and assigned to said cage-type skull channel.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 21, further comprising an additional heating unit provided [between] in a transition region[s] defined between [of individual] said plurality of flat coils and a second plurality of flat coils.

Claims 23 through 28 are cancelled without prejudice.

Please add new claims 29-35 as follows:

Claim 29. (New) A method for melting and refining of a melt in a channel having an open top, comprising:

positioning a first inductive heating source with respect to the channel so that said open top remains open; and

activating said first inductive heating source so that the melt flows in a horizontal direction.

Claim 30. (New) The method as in claim 29, further comprising:

positioning a second inductive heating source with respect to the channel so that said open top remains open, said second inductive heating source being spaced from said first inductive heating source.

Claim 31. (New) The method as in claim 30, further comprising:

positioning a first alternate heating source with respect to the channel in said open top between said first and second inductive heating sources.

Claim 32. (New) The method as in claim 31, wherein said first alternate heating source is an electrical heating unit.

Claim 33. (New) The method as in claim 31, wherein said first alternate heating source is a burner heating unit.

Claim 34. (New) The method as in claim 29, further comprising:

positioning a burner heating unit with respect to the channel in said open top.

Claim 35. (New) The method as in claim 34, wherein said first alternate heating source has a gas/air or gas/oxygen ratio that produces a reducing atmosphere.